National Anthem in Amritsar Schools

332. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the Police authorities have been successful in their efforts to see that singing of National Anthem in the morning assembly prayers of some schools in Amritsar district stopped by extremist groups, is resumed;

(b) the number of schools where the morning prayers are still not being held; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Visit of Amnesty International to Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir

333. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed Amnesty International personnel to visit Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the United States authorities pressurised the Government of India to accept this proposal;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for allowing the Amnesty to visit these two disturbed States and interfere in our internal affairs; and

(d) whether Government propose to advise the Amnesty International to visit Karachi and Sindh to study the recent ethnic violence there, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Following a review of our policy towards Amnesty International, Government decided to allow individual members of Amnesty International to come to India for (a) Private visits and (b) normal dialogue with the Government. There is no request made for investigations in J&K or Punjab or any other part of India.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) There is no question of allowing Amnesty International to interefer in our internal affairs. The decision concerning Amnesty was based on Government's firm conviction that democratic India's record of protecting and promoting Human Rights is second to none.

(d) No. Sir.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

SPECIAL MENTIONS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we take up the Special Mentions. Shri Shanti

SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I want to raise an important issue about Gajraula. CBI help has been refused. One team has gone there. If they want another team, it can go there. But then a terrible cover-up operation is going on in Gajraula. The police there is not serious. The Government there says it has nothing to do with it. The police is trying to cover up the whole thing. Three persons have been arrested. The nuns are prepared to identify the culprits. But the police is trying to cover it up. The Chief Minister is also refusing CBI help...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri Shanti Tyagi.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, there is a very serious situation in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Hundreds of workers are